

Appl.No. 10/807,925
Response dated December 6, 2005
Reply to Office Action mailed September 14, 2005

REMARKS

This application was filed with 1-18 claims. Claims 15-18 were cancelled pursuant to a restriction requirement. Claim 13 is cancelled herein. Claims 1-12 and 14 are pending in the Application. Claims 1, 5-6, and 10 have been amended. No new matter has been added.

The Examiner rejected Claims 1-14 as being anticipated by Taylor. The Examiner also rejected Claims 1-14 as being anticipated by Morrow '501. Reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

Taylor and 102

Initially, Applicant respectfully submits that the loop 1 of Taylor if placed on a lacrosse stick would be considered the upper rail of the sidewall. After all, loop 1 is a companion to loop 7 to form the sidewall. In any case, Taylor neither teaches nor discloses a floating rib that would be higher than the throat. Further, Claim 1 has included the language from original Claim 5 in which each of the side walls having an upper portion and a lower portion. If loop 1 of Taylor is considered to be the floating rib, then loop 7 is either the upper or lower portion of the side wall but not both. Therefore, Applicant submits that the amendment to Claim 1 makes Claim 1 patentable over Taylor.

Claims 2-5 depend upon Claim 1 and should be allowable.

With respect to Claim 2, Applicant respectfully submits that if loop 1 is interpreted to mean the floating rib, then the loop is attached in its middle portion to the loop 7 by tie loop 4. Therefore, Applicant submits that Taylor neither teaches nor discloses a floating rib not joined to the sidewall in its middle portion.

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With respect to Claim 5, the Examiner states that "Taylor discloses an Apex further from the lower portion than the upper portion." If loop 1 is considered to be the floating rib, then the floating rib cannot be further from the lower portion than the upper portion because the loop 7 is either the upper portion or the lower portion but not both. Therefore, in addition to being dependent upon Claim 1, Claim 5 is independently allowable.

Claim 6 has been amended to require that the sidewalls have an upper portion and a lower portion. Again, if the loop 1 of Taylor is considered to be the floating rib, then there is no upper portion of the sidewalls.

Claims 7-9 depend upon Claim 6 and are, for that reason, allowable.

For the same reasons set forth in connection with Claim 2 above, Claim 7 is allowable.

For the same reason set forth in connection with Claim 5 above, Claim 9 is allowable.

Claim 10 has been amended to require an apex that is nether disclosed nor taught by Taylor.

Claims 11-12 and 14 depend upon Claim 10 and are, for that reason, allowable.

For the same reasons set forth in connection with Claim 2, Claim 11 is independently allowable.

For the same reasons set forth in connection with Claim 3, Claim 12 is independently allowable.

For the same reasons set forth in connection with Claim 4, Claim 11 is independently allowable.

Morrow '502 and 102

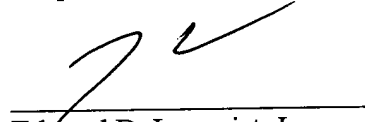
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The Examiner states that Claims 1-5 are anticipated by Morrow '501. Applicant submits that the amendment to Claim 1 requiring an upper and lower portion of the sidewall overcomes the rejection because that would mean that limitation 16 of Morrow '501 is actually the upper portion of the sidewall and not the floating rib. Further, limitation 16 does not rise above the throat.

Claims 2-5 depend upon Claim 1 and are allowable.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment associated with the filing of this Amendment and Response to Deposit Account 23-0035.

Respectfully submitted,



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December 6, 2005

Date